



## **Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea**

*Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet*

### **Musician Kyle Meadows to Perform Hammer Dulcimer Music at Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea**

**Release Date**  
**May 22, 2012**

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**BEREA, Ky.** – On Saturday, June 2, musician Kyle Meadows will perform on the hammer dulcimer from 11 a.m. to 2 pm at the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea.

Born in North Carolina, Meadows began his career in music as a child learning to play the piano by ear. His musical influences were his mother, who played the piano and sang, and also his grandmother, who played the church organ. Being exposed to rock-and-roll as a teenager, Meadows happened upon an album of hammer dulcimer music and was intrigued. He found a hammer dulcimer, began to teach himself, and has been playing ever since.

Meadows moved to Kentucky in 1990 and began performing in the Northern Kentucky region. He plays often as a solo act, and recently has been performing with Celtic harpist Tisa McGraw, as well as other musicians who share similar interests and styles of music.

The hammered dulcimer originated in Persia as many as 5,000 years ago and was originally called a santur. It is basically a trapezoidal wooden box with many pairs of strings (Meadow's has 29 pairs) and is played by striking the strings with small wooden hammers. Technically, this makes it a percussion instrument, as is the piano, which is its descendant. The tones produced from this striking action resonate for a long time and begin to overlap one another, creating the peaceful, bell-like quality of the instrument.

Recordings by Meadows are regularly available at the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea, 200 Artisan Way, just off Interstate 75 at Berea exit 77. The center's exhibits, shopping and travel information areas are open daily, year-round, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and the cafe is open from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Admission is free.

The center currently features works by more than 650 artisans from 100 counties across the Commonwealth and a special exhibition, "About Face: Kentucky Artisan Works Inspired by the Human Face," on display through Aug. 26. For information call 859-985-5448 or visit the center's website at [www.kentuckyartisancenter.ky.gov](http://www.kentuckyartisancenter.ky.gov)

The Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea is an agency in the Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.



Kyle Meadows will perform June 2 at the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea